FDD NewsLetter

July 1991 Vol. 1 No. 2

First off, let me apologize for being so late with this issue. I have been busy formatting an additional 50+ names out of 100+ that I received from Bob Swoger of CATUG. I now have all Timex newsletters, Hardware manufactures, software writers, vendors, etc. on the mailing list. I wanted them all to be on the list now because I'm enclosing a copy of the FDD 3000 schematic. Note: If any user groups now on the mailing list have members or know of anyone with a T/S 2068 & our Portuguese disk system and did NOT receive any issues, please have them write me their address so that they may be added to the mailing list. I expect a newsletter in exchange from users' groups. If no newsletters are forthcoming after 6 months, your users group will be dropped from my mailing list. Hardware manufacturers, software writers, repair services, & other vendors will continue to get a copy unless they request me to stop sending them the FDD NewsLetter.

Caveat Emptor

There are a few notes about the enclosed schematic. This schematic is basically the controller portion of the FDD unit and can apply to the older 3-piece units loosely. You will notice that at the tip left is the diagram of the power supply. Nazir says that this is NOT what we have under the hood! If you notice closely, he says, this is a diagram of a switching power supply. What we have is a cheaper "linear" version. There simply is no "U27" - a 78S40. Also, at the top right is a "TEST / EXPANSION" terminal. This we do not have, either, says Nazir. Also, just to the right & underneath the power supply diagram a "J8B". This, too, Nazir says, we do not have; besides which, is totally not standard. What we have is the "J8A" directly below it. This is the power supply to the disk drive. Also, just diagonally down & right of "J8A" is "OPTIONAL RP1". This we do not have, either. Nazir thinks that this schematic was from earlier point in time before the final product was actually committed to assembly. To give credit where credit is due, this schematic was cleaned up & sent to me by Bob Orrfelt. Thanks, Bob, it's a darn good copy!

Policy Change

All B & W ads submitted to me are now free! Color ads will still be charged at a rate of $10 for 1/8 of page & $20 for a 1/2 page. Some of you did not get the first issue of the FDD NewsLetter. This will be corrected soon. In the meanwhile, the next issue is just over a week away, so sometime shortly after that is when I'll have time to play catch-up.

Your Letters

Thomas S. Richardson, Route 2, Box 26, Trinity, NC, 27370, has the older 3-piece system with 2 disk drives, a T/S 2068, & an AERCo CP-68 parallel interface for sale. I'm not exactly sure if he

has CP/M &/or Spectrum OS, as well. He does have software for sale, too. Andrew S. Kosiorek, 2192 Glenbury Ave., Lakewood, Oh, 44107 has the following for sale:
2 complete FDD systems & spare parts, Amdek twin 3" drive, 2 T/S 2068s, Saga Elite (IBM style) keyboard, & many more parts & software. He'd prefer to sell everything in one lot. His telephone number is (216)226-4503. Christopher Borsa writes, "I have lots of 2068 hardware & software. Will sell very reasonable. If interested, I'll make a list." Sounds good to me, Chris. Make up that list and I'll publish it in this newsletter. Barry Weatherford writes, "How much is the SMUG digitizer & how can I get one? Can I send you a disk to get a certain CP/M word processor? Thanks for coming back!" To your first question, you may contact SMUG at: Sinclair Milwaukee Users Group, P.O. Box 101, Butler, Wisconsin, 53007. As for the cost, I believe it's somewhere in the $50 - $70 range depending whether you want the kit, with or without components, or a fully assembled version already burned-in & tested. When you write SMUG, you might want to ask them about your options & their corresponding prices. Although the digitizer comes with a free driver software, I strongly recommend that you order John McMichael's VideoTex program to drive the digitizer. It allows for more gray-scale shading selections since the digitizer is "brightness--dependent". It is available from John directly at 1710 Palmer Dr., Laramie, Wyoming, 82070, or from Ed Grey Enterprises, P.O.Box 2186, Inglewood, California, 90305. As for your second question, send me a box of 10 CF2s & I'll fill them all up for you with CP/M goodies like you wouldn't believe! Let me know if there is anything in the world of CP/M that your heart desires, and I'll do my best to help you out. Note: This is for CP/M only, not for T.O.S. or Spectrum! Thomas R. Anderson writes, "My T/S 2068 died a couple of years ago. I did not think it could be fixed. If you know where it can be fixed, let me know." Well, Thomas, you might make an offer to one of the above-mentioned people offering their 2068 for sale or you might try writing to either Dan Elliott, Route 1, Box 117, Cabool, Missouri, 65689 or Nazir Pashtoon, 940 Beau Drive, Apt. #204, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016-5876. Lafe McCorkle writes, "It's good to hear from you, Jay. I look forward to the next issue with the schematic. Maybe then I can fix my FDD system." Same advice to you, Lafe, as to Thomas R. Anderson that I said to him just above. Either offer to buy a system that's for sale or write to Nazir or Dan to see if they would be interested in doing the repair for you. A couple of you, Hal Bellinson & William L. Brancati, mention that they have either given their FDD system away or have sold it. Please let me know to whom you have passed it on to so that they may receive this newsletter and enjoy its technical tips for our disk system. Mike Finn writes, "Good luck with the news-

letter. I hope you get a good response. I put messages on CompuServe & 2 BBSes telling of your newsletter. Perhaps you could also put an announcement in Update Magazine?". Well, thanks, Mike, I'll try & get the word out, too. I will contact Update magazine, as well as T/SNUG in the near future. Does anyone know how to contact Thomas S. Dunlop, formerly of Centreville, Va., Owen Christianson, formerly of Reston, Va., & Earl V. Dunnington Jr. formerly of Boynton Beach, Fl.? Their mail was returned to me marked as undeliverable, no forwarding address.

Coming Attractions

Next month's issue will be chock-full of information on how to program the U4 - the WD 1770 FDC chip provided to me by Mike Finn. He sent me a "Fact Sheet" on this chip that I will be including. Also, there should be at least one color picture in the next issue.

Until next issue, keep on Timexin'!

TIMEX COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

1. Two FDD drive systems (Silver box) with only one 3" drive. Includes: two each controllers, P/S's, cables, I/F's etc. Also have one twister, one Tee-dock, approximately 10-3" disks, manuals and other technical data. Also have one "new" resister pack. Asking $200. post paid.

2. Timex 2068's (spares)
   * Used less than 1hr, complete in box ..$40. pp
   * Used, working, just computer .....$25. pp
3. T/S joy sticks excel used .....$8. pp
4. Koala pad and T/S with I/F and cable ...$40. pp
5. Portugal 2068 (P/S burnout)
   not working....parts? $15.pp
6. 2040 printer new ....$25. pp
7. 2020 cassette recorder ..$15. pp
8. 3 roll paper pack
   (3 pack min.) $5. pp (I have about 10)
9. Romswitch w/o magnet .....New.....$20.
10. Original T/S cartridge software (one of each 2 pinball.)
    .....$10. ea. pp.

PACKAGE DEALS CONSIDERED

Also have other misc items. which will be included in any package offers on above items

Write or call: Stan Light, PO Box 13 Ellenton Fl. 34222
813-746-0478 after 6pm eastern